CRACKLIN' STATIC

SIERRA NEVADA
Amateur Radio Society

Serving the Amateur Radio Community since April 16, 1968
http://www.snars.org

RENO, NEVADA **JUNE 2016**

----PRESIDENT'S VOICE----

Anthony Marcin, W7XM

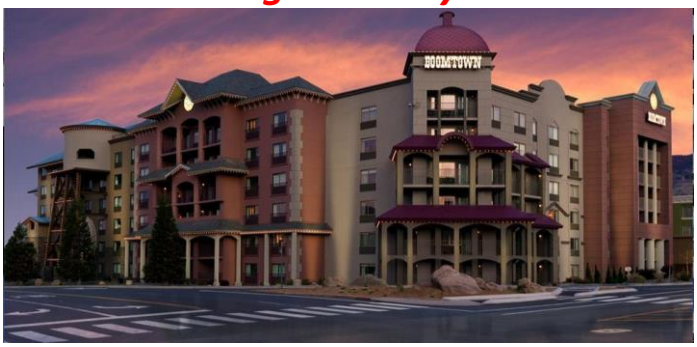
We live in a great area with all the summer activities which include amateur radio in some such as the races, marathons and bike races. We also are fortunate to have a great team of amateur radio operators who run the daily SNARS Noon Net and would like to recognize them this month.

The Noon Net was started over 10 years ago (approx start date is unknown) and is today a net that focuses on providing amateur radio information, events and an opportunity for stations to check in daily to check their amateur radio stations. Over the last year we have experimented with the format of the net and have received many comments and suggestions. Today the net seems to be in a great format and is receiving some great reception. I would like to thank the net control operators for their continued service and great work in running the net daily. I would highly encourage members of SNARS to listen and to participate in the net when you can. We are also looking for additional net control operators to help fill some vacant spots and also to step in when someone is unable to run the net. This is a great way to learn how to be a net control operator and a great way to meet and talk with other amateur radio stations. If you are interested please contact Wes, KG7QXE at wbvick@charter.net or find him after the net each day.

On another note have the upcoming Reno Ham swap scheduled for June 11th at Boomtown and Field Day at Washoe Lake State Park June 24th, 25th and 26th. We invite all SNARS Members for a BBQ on Saturday night and of course to operate the 7 stations planned. We will also be raffling a door prize for those in attendance at both event. Field Day also serves as our annual BBQ and we hope everyone can attend. More details will be coming out shortly so keep an eye out in your inboxes, the SNARS Noon Net and the website.

Tony, W7XM

SNARS meeting Saturday June 4



7:30 AM Boomtown Casino Hotel, I-80 exit 4, Verdi NV, in the Banquet/Conference Center.

Discussion on the Noon Net, Final prep discussions for Field Day.

SNARS, P.O. Box 7727, Reno, NV 89510

Membership: $40 Individual, $50 Family

OFFICERS 2015

President……Tony Marcin……W7XM
Vice President…… Jim Shepherd……W6US
Trea$urer……Bill Jones……AE7OX
Secretary……Rob Dunbar……NB6C
Director……Steve Johnson……KS6A
Director……John Byerly……N7ROJ
Director……Barry Bettman……K6ST

STAFF 2016

By Laws Review Committee……vacant
Club Public Information Officer……vacant
Control Operators Manager……W7DED
Cracklin' Static Editor……WB2AWQ
Meeting Greeters……AE7OX
History Archivist……KF7KTC
Station Licensee for KR7ENO……WB2AWQ
Control Operators FOR KR7ENO……WB2AWQ
Station Licensee for W7TA……KE7VSR
Tech Committee Chair……N7ROJ
Chief VE Examiner……NN7K
Membership Chairman……N2MOO
Program Chairman……vacant
Web Master ……W7XM
Facebook Page Administrator……W7XM
Events (ARES) Coordinator……WA6MTY
Education Team Chair……W7XM
Reno Ham Swap……NB6C
Field Day Co-chair……KS6A
Field Day Co-chair……W6US
Audit……vacant
Noon Net……KS6A

CRACKLIN' STATIC PUBLICATION

E-mail…… **holden7471@msn.com**

Cracklin' Static is the Newsletter of, and sponsored by the **S**ierra **N**evada **A**mateur **R**adio **S**ociety. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editors and contributors and should not be considered as official expressions of the Club Officers, Staff or Club Members, or as endorsements by same.

Material for publication may be edited to enhance readability or to save space. We reserve the right to use whatever font size or line spacing may be required in order to publish this Newsletter.

Deadline for input to the newsletter is 1500 hours on the Sunday prior to the 1st Saturday of each month.

Cracklin' Static is e-published in Adobe PDF Format. It may be enjoyed at the SNARS web site.

Amateur Radio License Testing 2016

SNARS, Third Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December. Testing will be at the REOC located at 5195 Spectrum Blvd., be there at 9 AM sharp! …… Bill Nichols… NN7K

SIERA CLUB: Silver State Charter High School, 788 Fairview Dr, Carson City…… 3rd Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November

……Dale Anderson, kv7s@charter.net

Elko Area: Third Saturday of January, April, July, October. 11:00AM, Northeast Nevada Regional Hospital, 2001 Errecart Boulevard, Elko, NV w7gk_1@yahoo.com

SNARS Repeater System Frequencies

I-80-Mt Rose Linked System (W7TA)
Reno, Sparks, Carson City (Ophir Peak) 443.075 + 123.0 Normal Operation
Lovelock, Black Rock Desert (Toulon Peak) 146.925 - 123.0 Normal Operation
Winnemucca 146.670 - 123.0 Normal Operation
Reno, Sparks (Virginia Peak) 147.030 + 123.0 Normal Operation
Carson City, Tahoe, Truckee (Mt Rose Knob) 147.150 + 123.0 Normal Op
Reno, Sparks, North Valleys (Peavine Peak) 147.210 + 100.0 Normal Operation
Yerington, Wellington (Lobdelle Peak) 444.875 + 100.0 Normal Operation

IRLP/EchoLink System (W7TA)
Reno, Sparks (GSR) 147.300 + 123.0 Connected to/Status:

Standalone Systems, Ragchew Repeaters (W7TA)
Reno, Sparks 52.580 - 114.8 Normal Operation
Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Dayton (Ophir Peak) 147.390 + 100.0 Normal Op
Reno, Sparks 927.1125 - 114.8 Normal Operation
Reno, Sparks, Carson City (Ophir Peak) 146.610 - 123.0 Not Linked, off air

Digital/APRS Systems (W7TA)
Reno, Sparks, Carson City (Ophir Peak) 145.050 - RNO Normal Operation
Carson City, Tahoe, Truckee (Mt Rose Knob) 145.050 - ROSE Normal Op
Lovelock, Black Rock Desert (Lobdelle peak) 144.390 - TOULON Normal Op

Portable Repeaters (KR7ENO)
Portable System 147.000 - 123.0 Special events only

DMR Digital Mobile Radio
Reno-Sparks 444.925 + CC1 DMR System
Reno, Carson, Dayton 444.825 + CC1
Lake Tahoe, Truckee 443.925 + CC1

C4FM Digital Repeater – YAESU OFF THE AIR

D-Star (N7NDS) NARRI
Reno-Sparks-Carson (Mt Davidson) 444.625 + (Module B)
Reno-Sparks-Carson (Mt Davidson) 145.175 - (Module C)

THE NAME OF THE GAME

By Jim Shepherd W6US nvjims@gmail.com

Field Day! --Part 2

The last weekend in June, we will all be gathering at Washoe State Park to operate around the clock for the 24 hours of Field Day. Last month I talked about the on-the-air operations, but this month we will talk about the really important part of Field Day—Logistics!

Radios and antennas may make the contacts, but they don't run without a lot of other things working properly. We are going to be an "A" class station which means that we will be running the radios on power other than that supplied by NV Energy. The bulk of that power will be by gas powered generators. We will need at least 2 quiet generators with proper spill containment systems. A separate spill containment system will be needed for the fuel storage area. The generators will be located just north of the kiosk along the edge of the parking area. I have several heavy duty 10 gauge 100' extension cords to bring the power to operating positions, but we need several heavy duty power strips to split the power at the stations.

We also will be using 'shore power' from the park's power system for the logging computers and any needed lighting. If you have a small UPS, bring it to use with a logging computer as they do not have good batteries and any power bump could shut them down. Additional lighting is needed for outlying stations and should have LED bulbs to keep our power draw to a minimum as we may have very limited power on the park system. Additional outdoor rated 3 wire extension cords are needed for the computer power system.

There is limited space under the main shelter, so some stations will need a canopy or tent for shelter. Thunderstorms like we had last year are accompanied by high, gusty winds so the shelters must be up to the task at hand. We will also need to hang some tarps around the main shelter to deflect horizontal rain, wind and the sun in the late afternoon and early morning. Stations associated with motorhomes will need to be set up outside, and most recreational vehicles have canopies to help with that. A few extra tarps to put over the equipment during the storms are also needed.

There are plenty of park tables with attached benches, however while they are nice for a few minutes while eating, sitting on those benches for hours while operating can get old… Good folding tables with comfortable chairs really can make for better operating positions. Try out your combination at home first or bring your chair to our 'on site' meeting and check it with the end of the park tables. Most of the foldup camping chairs actually have you sitting too low to be comfortable at a table. For those stations that will not be operating on the cement pad under the main shelter, a large throw rug will help keep the dust down around your operating position and make it easier to use a foot switch and move your chair.

With all of the power cables, coax, CAT5 and other tripping hazards, we are in need of cable and cord shield covers to put across walkways. These will save wear and tear on the cables, keep people from tripping and, more importantly, prevent your radio from being jerked off of the table or the power disconnected in the middle of a contact…. I will bring some flagging for guy lines as they are also a potential hazard as we move around the site. If you are using rebar or other metal stakes to tie down your setups, you will need to cover the ends to prevent injuries—used plastic drink bottles make good covers. Hint—8 to 12" x ½" lag bolts with a fender washer make very good stakes for light guying and shelter hold-downs and can be driven flush to the ground with an electric impact driver.

The club has a large coffee pot with filters, so that is covered. Coolers filled only with ice are also important and having cold drinks while breaking down on Sunday afternoon is very important, so they should be the last things to be packed up on Sunday. We need to have a handyman jack with some chain to be able to pull stubborn guy stakes. Plenty of tarps will help with shelters and having a few to quickly deploy over equipment can save the day… A recycling bin for cans and bottles will score points from the Parkies and the public even if we don't get points from the ARRL! If you have a label maker, bring it to insure your equipment is labeled and to help others.

For your personal use, a LED headlight is very handy if you are wandering around after dark. Be sure to bring your PPE—hardhat, gloves and glasses to help in the setup and teardown phases. This year there is some water in the lake and marshes, so bug repellant may be in demand. A high SPF sunscreen is also recommended if you are going to venture out from under the shelter. Water will be provided, but it is still a good idea to bring some and a marker to label your bottle—partial, unlabelled bottles sitting around will be dumped and

recycled. An insulated coffee mug will keep your coffee hot and cold drinks cold. If you are staying overnight, of course, you will need to bring your camping gear. If you have a radio headset, bring it as most stations will be set up to allow their use to monitor the traffic.

We will have a meeting on-site on Sunday, June 5 at 1500hrs to further discuss the setup and operations. There will be additional information given out at that time. Thanks for your support of Field Day!

MIKE'S MISSIVES CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

PART 97

Why We are Here

The five basic principles for the Amateur Radio Service are clearly established at the very beginning of the rules:

97.1 Basis and Purpose.

The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles:

(a) Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

(b) Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art.

(c) Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for advancing skills in both the communication and technical phases of the art.

(d) Expansion of the existing reservoir within the Amateur Radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts.

(e) Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international good will.

Though often referred to as a hobby, Amateur Radio crosses many boundaries. The licensees of the Amateur Service play important roles in public service and emergency communications as well as the development of new and innovative technological advancements. They function as trained communicators available to assist others, but they also participate to enjoy camaraderie and fun with the new friends they meet on the airwaves. Some Amateurs seek new operating challenges or pursue hands-on opportunities to learn new things about radio or electronics. The rules recognize that amateurs have distinct talents that they make available to serve their communities.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

RMS QUEEN MARY W6RO

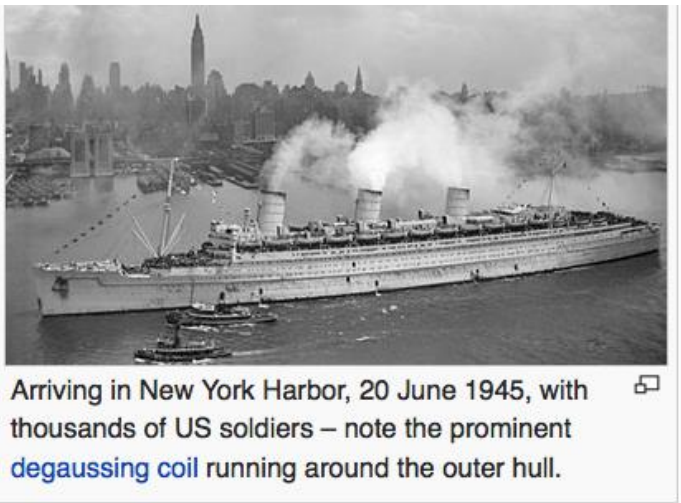
By John Mitchell W1RK

My wife (KK6CJM) and I (W1RK formerly KK6CJL) were able to be guests in the radio room on the **Queen Mary** in Long Beach a few weeks ago. My mother, Lt. Helen (Northrop) Mitchell (an American Nurse in Southern England during WWII) sailed home from England after WWII on this ship so it has always had special meaning to me.

The nurse with the patient in traction picture includes my Mom. It has been used in the official history of Blandford Camp…now a Base for the Royal Signal Corps.

Another photo of the US Hospital in Blandford England

My Dad (Lt. Albert G. Mitchell, Jr) was wounded near Paris while serving with the 30th Division in 1944. Yes my Mom was a nurse in the American hospital in Blandford, England that nursed him back to combat in time for the Battle of the Bulge. They were married in England right after VE Day and my Mom wore a wedding dress made out of a patient parachute. He returned to the US before she did but was waiting for her when she got off the Queen Mary in the USA.



Arriving in New York Harbor, 20 June 1945, with thousands of US soldiers – note the prominent degaussing coil running around the outer hull.

I was especially pleased to be honored to put my new Extra ticket to use as a guest operator from W6RO that day. It was impressive how the pileup "parted the seas" for me when "Queen Mary" was mentioned on the air!

John W1RK and his XYL Beverly KK5CJM aboard the QM

Modern operating position for W6RO aboard the QM

John and his wife with John's mother and father on QM

Editor's note photo above, from:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Queen_Mary

***Queen Mary*'s original, professionally manned wireless radio room was removed when the ship was moored in Long Beach. In its place, an amateur radio room was created one deck above the original radio reception room, with some of the discarded original radio equipment used for display purposes. The amateur radio station, with the call sign W6RO ("Whiskey Six Romeo Oscar"), relies on volunteers from a local amateur radio club. They staff the radio room during most public hours. The radios can also be used by other licensed amateur radio operators.[47][48][49]**

In honour of his over forty years of dedication to W6RO and *Queen Mary*, in November 2007 the Queen Mary Wireless Room was renamed as the Nate Brightman Radio Room. (end quote from Wiki)

Any properly licensed HAM can arrange to be a guest operator with a valid license and advance arrangements for time in the radio room.

John Mitchell,W1RK ex KK6CJL

Weekly nets on the SNARS repeater systems

Western Nevada Noon net (daily, 12:00 PM)
147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0
The Morning Net (Monday – Friday at 10:00 AM)
147.300 + 123.0
Bishops Storehouse Net (Monday nights at 9:15 PM)
147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0
North Western Nevada ARES Net (Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM)
147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0
State SATERN Net (Tuesday nights at 8:00 PM)
147.300 + 123.0
State SKYWARN Net (Wednesday nights at 7:00 PM)
147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0
Northern Nevada Preppers Group Net (Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM)
147.150 + 123.0, 147.210 + 100.0, 147.030 + 123.0, 444.875 + 100.0
State ARES Net (Thursday nights at 7:00 PM)
147.300 + 123.0
SNARS New Ham Net (Sunday afternoons at 12:00 PM)
147.030 +and 147.150,+, PL 123.0, and 147.210 + and 444.875+, PL 100.0

THE SNARS NOON NET

The Noon Net is on 147.030 +and 147.150,+, PL 123.0, and 147.210 + and 444.875+, PL 100.0 . The net is held weekly at 1200, Sunday afternoon. This is a Q&A and information net for newly licensed hams and all hams wishing to ask question about different aspects of Ham Radio. It will give new hams in particular a venue for getting on the air in a controlled net moderated by a ham with experience. The net is open to all hams. Questions will be answered and discussed by the more experienced hams on the Net.

* *

NAME THAT RIG

(Answer on page 7)

RENO HAM SWAP

Spring Ham Swap & Hamfest

Boomtown Casino Hotel, Reno, Nevada
Saturday, June 11, 2016

The Ham Swap will be located in the west parking lot of Boomtown.

2100 Garson Rd. Verdi, NV 89439 - Exit #4 I-80 East

EVENT DETAILS

6:00 AM - Swap Setup
$10.00 Per Parking Lot Space
Approx 8'x16'
6:30 AM - Open to Public

9:00AM Radio Exams
Ham radio exams will be available. $15.00 fee
10:00 AM - Raffle Drawing
Purchase raffle tickets at the event.
- FT60R, ARRL Gift Certificates, RF Adapter Certificate and more.

Breakfast
Mel's Diner in the casino is open 24 hours.

Questions or Comments
info@renohamswap.com

About Reno Ham Swap
The Reno Ham Swap is held yearly in May (postponed this year until June due to weather!) and September. The Reno Ham Swap is a premier event for ham swappers in the Northern Nevada and Sierra Nevada Areas. The event draws over 25 unique ham swappers and over 200 attendees and growing. The event is hosted by the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society, Inc.

All proceeds go to the SNARS which provides support to maintaining and building out the repeater systems and amateur radio related events and education in Northwestern Nevada and Eastern California areas.

SNARS CALENDAR

SNARS monthly meeting (breakfast!)
Saturday, June 4th, 8:00 AM
Boomtown Casino Hotel, I-80 exit 4, Verdi NV

SNARS Reno Ham Swap
Saturday, June 11th, 6:00 AM
See info above!

Technical Committee Meeting - SNARS
Wednesday, June 8th, 2016 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM PDT
Washoe County Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd Reno, Nevada 89512

Board of Director's Meeting - SNARS
Wednesday, June 15th, 2016 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Washoe County Regional Emergency Operations Center, 5195 Spectrum Blvd Reno, Nevada 89512

WELCOME NEW SNARS MEMBERS!

NEW MEMBERS FOR MAY 2016		
Robert	Bryant	KE7YAS
Barbara	Lindsey	K6BJL
Emily	Siemons	AI6OQ
Misa	Siemons	KJ6BUE
Thomas	Van Norman	WA6UEO
Kam	Vento	KI6NWL
Warren	Turner	KI7DHN
Perry	Chapman	KG7ZPA
Todd	Scott	N7RLW
Edward	Kiernan	KC2UCC
Michael	Henderson	KI7BPX
Robert	Pray	WA6CSM
David	Telling	N6AFV
Michael	Patterson	N6JGA

Total members as of May – 320

NAME THAT RIG **(from pg 6)**

The Heathkit RX-1 Mohawk was Heath's high end receiver from 1958 to 1964. It used 14 tubes, weighed in at 52 pounds, and covered the then-current bands from 160 through 10 meters plus a converter band for 6 and 2 meter RF converters. It sold for $275 in 1958 in kit form although the RF coils and bandswitch were pre-assembled and aligned. It was a dual conversion receiver with many controls found only on the best receivers – upper and lower sideband selection, full range notching, wide range selectivity settings, and more. It was sometimes panned for alleged instability, but overall was a well respected receiver, especially for a kit. It was paired with the TX-1 Apache transmitter.

FUN STUFF FOR JUNE

Looking for some excitement on the bands during the summer? There's something for everyone on the air!

6/4 0000 to 6/5 2359 28Mhz 10-10 International Open Season PSK www.ten-ten.org/index.php

6/11 1800 to 6/13 0259 50Mhz and up ARRL June VHF Contest CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/june-vhf

6/18 1800 to 6/18 2359 (see rules) Kids Day Contest Ph N www.arrl.org/kids-day

6/25 1800 to 6/26 2100 All bands (noWARC) ARRL Field Day CW Ph Dig www.arrl.org/field-day

For a full list of contests, visit: http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Calendar/2016-05.pdf

If you're not into contests, there's always DX to chase, lots in April! Some of the better DX coming up in April:

Jun07 to Jun09 Micronesia **V63AN**
Jun09 to Jun14 Palau **T88AN**
Jun15 to Jul14 Mauritius **3B8**
Jun19 to Jun24 Greenland **OX**
Jun20 to Jun28 Maldives **8Q7HW**
Jun28 to Jul04 Malta **9H3G**

Visit http://www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html for current info and full lists!

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD WRITERS

Do you have an interesting radio-related article you'd like to see published in Cracklin Static? Proud of your shack, and have some photos of it? Built a nice piece of gear or accessory for your station? A colorful QSL card? We'd love to include your work in Cracklin Static! See an error in Cracklin Static? You can contact me (WB2AWQ) at holden7471@msn.com, or call me at 846-6820 (cell) to discuss! This is YOUR newsletter!.....73, Howie

ARES NEWS

Expanded full calendar of ARES events requiring communications, including contact info

EVENT 2016	DATE	DATE END	SPONSOR/ORGANIZER	COORDINATOR	CONTACT
America's Most Beautiful Bike Ride	6/5/16		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul McCaffee	paul.mcafee@att.net
Pony Express Re-Ride	6/15/16	6/25/16	SIERA		http://www.cvhams.com/contact.php
FIELD DAY	6/25/16	6/26/16	SNARS		holden7471@msn.com
Reno 5000-2	6/26/16		Dolan Auto Group	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Death Ride	7/9/16		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul McCaffee	paul.mcafee@att.net
Tahoe Rim Trail	7/16/16	7/17/16	WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Round Valley Walk/Run	8/6/16		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
Running With the Bears	8/20/16		Plumas ARC	Larry Trotter KI6YUK	dltrotter@sbcglobal.net
Reno 5000-3	8/28/16		Dolan Auto Group	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Tahoe 200	9/9/2016	9/13/16	WC-ARES	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com
Tour De Tahoe	9/11/16		Tahoe Amateur Radio Assn	Paul McCaffee	paul.mcafee@att.net
Reno Air-Races	9/14/16	9/18/16	WC-ARES	Rick Russell KF7KEM	wa6mty@gbis.com
Edible Pedal 100	9/18/16		Sunrise Rotary Club	Bob Miller WA6MTY	wa6mty@gbis.com

Bob Miller WA6MTY
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Emergency Coordinator
775 843-5952
www.wcares.us
www.wcares.us

US NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS IN THE COLD WAR ERA (PART THREE of THREE)

NGR took a distress message one morning at 2 AM local on 8 MHz from a merchant ship just outside San Diego. The ships condensers were fouled, and she was losing power rapidly. The ship tried in vain to contact the operators at Navcommsta San Diego, but they were apparently asleep at the wheel. NGR operators contacted the duty officer at San Diego via Autovon (**Auto**matic **Vo**ice **N**etwork, a military long distance telephone system of the Cold War era), and alerted him to the situation. Shortly thereafter the ship got help, and undoubtedly some sailors at NavCommSta San Diego caught the dickens…..

NGR operators occasionally visited with shipboard radio operators when their ships stopped in Greece. Notable were visits to the USNS O'Brien, NSSU, a WW2 vintage attack troop carrier, then ferrying personal belongings and other shipments around the Mediterranean, and another visit to the SS Thomas G Thompson KGWT, a research ship out of Woods Hole MA, doing oceanographic research. The O'Brien, still very much in WW2 condition, sported an RMCA 4U radio console. Its operator, Guillermo Ramirez, had a distinctive, extremely copiable fist to go along with the slightly "yoopy" sound of his transmitter. The USNS Shoup, NGCC, dropping listening devices off the Egyptian shore, was also a regular customer of NGR.

USNS Shoup, NGCC T-AG-175

USNS O'Brien, NSSU T-AK-246 (KG5KD)

Visits to NGR by radiomen from Navy ships were a common occurrence, and we always enjoyed meeting the operators on the other end of a key or RTTY machine.

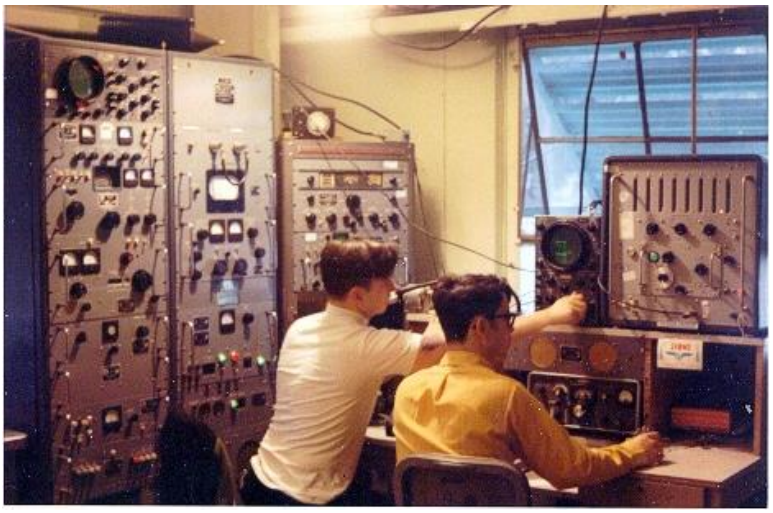
One last item which stands out with me is that we occasionally took CW traffic from a Navy plane as it took off from the Naval Air Facility at Naples Italy. I've no idea why, but suspect it was a dyed-in-the-wool CW operator aboard, and it was an older plane still equipped with WW2 or Korean War era radio equipment. I was not sufficiently interested in older gear at the time, but now I wish I knew what equipment was being used aboard the aircraft. It was an era in which a lot of the radio gear aboard auxiliary aircraft was still from the WW2 era.

Ship-to-shore was just one source of traffic through NGR. Ships terminated in the Hi-Comm area, American embassies, military aid and assistance groups, other, smaller communications facilities throughout southeastern Europe and the Middle East passed their traffic through NGR, along with traffic that was simply on the relay path, just passing through NGR on its way to the hundreds of US Military and government destinations throughout the world. Each message had to be accounted for, logged in, and checked to make sure it went to all the designated addressees, at the right security level, and within a prescribed time period according to the priority level of the message. There was no room for mistakes, and there were people whose job was solely to trace all messages into and out of NGR for those three attributes. Yours truly did just that for the last two months of his tour there.

Life at NGR, like all other Navy communication facilities, consisted of an endless series of rotating work shifts with a couple of days off every 6 to 8 days. Most shifts were 8 hours long, but when NGR took over the CAMS duties, and at Christmas time, when many people went home for the holidays, shifts were generally 12 hours long – 12 on, 12 off for however long the period lasted. Radiomen on shore rarely stood inspections because of the rotating work schedules. We worked hard when on duty, and played hard when off, and life both on the base and off was good.

Besides our regular work responsibilities, a group of us Radiomen at NGR also ran a small ham radio club. There were about 8 of us involved, and we worked much DX, and ran phone patches for base personnel via Air Force MARS. Our MARS call sign was AJ6AJ. Navy MARS had no operations covering the Mediterranean. Our station was pretty good – an FRT-70 transmitter feeding a Thunderbird TH-6DX beam up 75 feet, and a Collins 75S-3C receiver. If a band was open, we could easily work wherever it was open to. A little bit about the FRT-70 (and some applies to all TMC transmitters). This 1 KW out transmitter stood in two six-foot high racks. One entire rack was devoted solely to generation of very stable RF, about 1 watt, 2 to 32 Mcs, CW, AM, SSB, DSB, or ISB, synthesized to about 1 part in 10 to the 8th . The other rack was a two stage amp and power supplies, with a PL-172 in the final. Output was monitored on a very large cross-needle SWR meter. Changing frequencies was not for the impatient on the TMC transmitters. The synthesizer had to be dialed in and carefully set to frequency, then succeeding stages had to be tuned. A neon bulb flashing on and off at the difference frequency between the synthesizer lock and the VFO enabled one to visually see if the signal was in danger of going out of lock. A VERY slow blink was good, a fast blink was not. But the signal, once set, was rock-solid, with crisp keying on CW and crystal-clear voice on SSB. The 1 KW and beam made things easy for operators on the other end also.

We all had Greek Amateur call signs. Mine was SV0SV, unusual in that at the time all US Military personnel Greek call sign suffixes were supposed to start with "W". Mine was an apparent error, and no one caught on to it.



NGR ops circa 1969 Ken Pletz (SK) and Tom Johnson in the MARS/ham shack. The TMC FRT-70 transmitter is in the two left side racks. (KG5KD)

Joel Roberson in the ham shack. Nov. '68

The bug Robbie is using still belongs to the author WB2AWQ (KG5KD)

NGR was closed in 1990, a victim of massive base closures in that era, and of the military's extensive use of satellites for communications as opposed to HF. For the relatively short time it was a part of the Navy's communications scheme, it was considered one of the best duty stations in the fleet. Located in a delightful area

of a fascinating country, and combined with its comparatively small size owing to its singular function, life on and off the base was heaven. It truly was paradise for many a lucky sailor.

A recent aerial photo of the remains of NGR receiver site. The 700 ft diameter circle from the Wullenweber array is plainly visible. All 26 vans at the receiver site were within the Wullenweber, and most other antennas were to the right outside the drawn-in border. (KG5KD)

The photos and information herein came primarily from my own recollections of life at NGR, Nick England's (K4NYW) absolutely terrific website www.navy-rado.com, and fellow CW op Joel "Robbie" Roberson's (KG5ZD) NGR website, www.ncsgreece.com. Nick's website is a radio treasure, filled with information on electronics used in naval communications. Rob's website, set up for alumni of NGR, boasts input from many of those alumni, with tons of historical flashbacks into the time of NGR. Photos of the inside of the vans are practically non-existent because much of it was a high security area, but the pages of the AN/TSC-35 manual on Nick's website are nearly 100% true to the actual setup at NGR. Both Nick and Robbie have given me permission to share their work and site info with you, and have contributed much of their own knowledge and assistance in making sure this article is as accurate as possible. My sincere thanks to both Nick and Rob.

The equipment, procedures, general communications setups, and day-to-day operation at NGR were much the same the world over at other Navy communications sites. But NGR, while certainly not the largest Navy communications station at the time, was unique in its "transportable" configuration of such a large and complete communications facility. The memories of that time and the great shipmates with whom I served, the honor of taking CW traffic from ships at sea, of signing DE NGR, will follow me to my grave.

WB2AWQ

Board of Directors Meeting

May 18, 2016 - 6:00 PM

Washoe County Regional Emergency Operations Center
Board Room
5195 Spectrum Blvd, Reno

DRAFT MINUTES - To Be Approved on June 15, 2016

1. Call to order Special Meeting to fill two board vacancies and roll call at 6:00 PM

Anthony Marcin, W7XM	Yes	Barry Bettman, K6ST	Yes	Rob Dunbar, NB6C	Yes
Bill Jones, AE7OX	Yes	John Byerly, N7ROJ	Yes	Steve Johnson, KS6A	Yes
Jim Shepherd, W6US	Yes				

Visitors
Wes Vick, KG7QXE

2. Approval of Minutes

A. NB6Cmoved to approve the minutes from the April 20 Board of Directors meeting. The motion was seconded by N7ROJ and the motion passed.
B. The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Reports

A. President's Report -
1. W7XM Reported on NV Convention held in Las Vegas.
2. If we want to have our own convention or hamvention maybe we should look to partner with other clubs in our area for 2017. We could partner with the South Lake Tahoe club.
3. A new Web-team is being formed to manage and update the Club's website.

B. Secretary Report
a. Status Report, nothing to report at this time.
b. No update on changing club from Chapter 81 to Chapter 82. Clubs charter expires in 2018. W7XM has some documents to work with NB6C.

C. Membership Coordinator
a. Membership Status Report – There are currently 331 Members.
b. New Team Members –There was a meeting with the Membership Committee with one member attending. There will be another meeting in the future with members that have shown interest in working on the Membership Committee.

D. Treasurer
a. Balances: Checking: $7,111.23 Savings: $3,241.93 PayPal: $2,343.59 Trust Fund: $10,202.46 Bank statements were handed out for everyone to review and confirm.

E. Technical Committee - Report
a. N7ROJ was able to get a Master III repeater to replace the damaged 610 machine. The Master III repeater will need a new final power amplifier.

b. N7ROJ is negotiating with New London Technologies to purchase a Master III Final Power Amplifiers.
c. Power lines going to Ophir and Davidson were hit by lightning and there was a lot of damage. Many of the power supplies at Ophir were fried. N7ROJ will bring up some Master II power supplies he has. KC7CCH was a lot of help getting power turned back on at Davidson and Ophir. N7ROJ investigating acquiring a real power line lightning arrester.
d. IRLP has some interference on the uplink frequency which the tech committee will be investigating.

F. Control Operators / Trustee - Report
a. No report was submitted by Peter DeBay or Pat Sheehan.

G. Events
a. Field Day – A meeting will occur on site Sunday June 5th to plan set up and antenna locations. We the equestrian area reserved Thursday to Sunday June 23 – June 26.
b. Ham Swap – Rescheduled for Saturday June 11 at 6AM.
c. Convention – See President's report

H. Education Team
a. General Class starting May 31 for 5 to 6 weeks. Classes will be held twice a week on Tuesday and Thursdays.

I. Noon Net
a. Status – Wes Vick, KG7QXE is the new Noon Net manager. AF7MN had to drop out due to work obligations. KG2UCC and KI6DSP have joined and will start Friday.
b. Idea presented by W7XM is to provide name badges for the net operators so other members can meet the Net operators at SNARS events.

J. HF Team
a. Initial meeting is schedule to occur in late June/July.

4. **New Business**

A. Memorial Station Endowment Discussion – K5RC is looking for a non-profit to inherit his equipment. There will need to be further discussion or the need to create a committee to further review the issues and liabilities.
B. NASA Discovery Center at Auto Museum - Unless we get a commitment from some members the club won't be able to offer assistance.
C. Open for Discussion
a. NB6C asked if the club would like to have a booth at the Reno Mini Maker Faire on July 19. W7XM said to sign the club up. The Mini Maker Faire will be held at Idlewild Park

4. **Next Meeting**

A. June 15 2016 - Wednesday at 6:00PM - Washoe Regional Emergency Operations Center

6. **Public Comments**

A. Open for Comments - No Public Comments

7. **Adjournment at 7:30 PM Rob, John**